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211444Z Sep 04

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 ANKARA 005377

SIPDIS

BAGHDAD PLEASE ALSO PASS MOSUL AND MNF-I

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PREL](#) [MOPS](#) [TU](#) [IZ](#)

SUBJECT: ACTION REQUEST: U.S. MILITARY MEDIVAC OF INJURED
TURKISH AID WORKER FROM MOSUL

1. This is an urgent action request. Please see para. six.

2. Summary: On Sept. 20, Turkish Red Crescent worker Mustafa Pekcan was seriously wounded in a terrorist attack and taken to a Mosul hospital, where he underwent emergency surgery. GOT is seeking U.S. assistance to medivac Pekcan to Turkey. TFO has been to the hospital and TFO surgeon evaluated his condition afternoon of Sept. 21. Surgeon believes Pekcan is improving but that the hospital is adequate and that it is not safe to move him immediately, though it may be safe on Sept. 22. Embassy requests USG approval for MNF-I to medivac Pekcan to Diyarbakir, Turkey as soon as it is safe for him to travel. End summary.

3. On Sept. 20, a vehicle carrying Turkish Red Crescent workers from Talafar--where they had been doing relief work following recent coalition operations there--came under insurgent fire on the road to Mosul. Three to four workers were lightly injured but one, Mustafa Pekcan, was seriously wounded, with injuries to his kidney, colon, and pelvis. The workers were taken to El Salam hospital in Mosul, where doctors performed emergency surgery on Pekcan. We understand Pekcan was suffering serious internal bleeding following surgery but is now doing somewhat better; the internal bleeding seems to have slowed. TFO surgeon evaluated Pekcan's condition afternoon of Sept. 21 and believes that his standard of care is good and it would not be in Pekcan's interests to move him now, though he may be in better shape to move on Sept. 22.

4. Turkish Red Crescent, Turkish MFA, and TGS have all been in contact with us concerning this case. MFA forwarded us a diplomatic note (para. seven) requesting USG assistance to medivac Pekcan to Diyarbakir, Turkey. Red Crescent is anxious to move Pekcan now, but, acknowledging TFO surgeon's evaluation, Turkish Special Forces Commander in Silopi told our LNO there that Sept. 22 would be adequate for medivac.

5. The Turkish press is aware of this case and has already been making inquiries to the Embassy press officer.

6. Action request: Request the Department coordinate with relevant players--DoD, CENTCOM, Embassy Baghdad--to authorize MNF-I to stand ready to medivac Pekcan to Diyarbakir o/a Sept. 22, depending on Pekcan's condition. End action request.

7. BEGIN TEXT OF DIPLOMATIC NOTE

2004/UKGY/395977

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey

Top Urgent

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey presents its compliments to the Embassy of the United States of America in Ankara and concerning the recent armed attack to a Turkish Red Crescent vehicle in Mosul has the honour to inform of the following:

The Ministry has received a petition from Mrs. Didem Pekcan, spouse of Mr. Mustafa Pekcan, a Turkish Red Crescent personnel who had severely injured in the above mentioned attack and currently under medical treatment in Al Selam Hospital in Mosul requesting her husband's urgent transfer to Turkey via ambulance helicopter or plane and undertaking all the responsibilities and risks arising from this transfer. A copy of the said petition is enclosed herewith.

In this framework, the assistance of the Esteemed Embassy in informing the relevant American authorities on the issue with the aim of realizing the transfer of Mr. Mustafa Pekcan from Mosul, Iraq to Diyarbakir, Turkey at its earliest convenience will be highly appreciated.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Embassy of the United States of America the assurances of its highest consideration.

Ankara, 21 September 2004

Encl.: (As Stated)

Embassy of the United States of America
Ankara

END TEXT

18. Baghdad minimize considered.
EDELMAN